HIV Database Workshop

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Theoretical Biology and Biophysics, T-10
Los Alamos National Laboratory





Workshop Topics

June 9th, 2005, Durban South Africa Introduction

Sequence Database

Search tools Basic sequence search interface and on-the-fly alignments and trees

HIV/SIV sequence locator tool SynchAligns and Treemaker Geography search interface

New Sequences Genecutter - processing nucleotide sequences

HIV database alignments and subtype reference sequences

Analysis Tools Using the new RIP tool for recombination analysis

Contamination Nglyco

Immunology Database

Database CTL search page

Ab search page Epitope maps

Tools Epiline

Motif Scan Hepitope

ELF

About the Instructor

Dr. Bette Korber is Co-PI of the database project, primary editor of the HIV Immunology Database, with background in HIV evolution and immunology



Workshop Goals

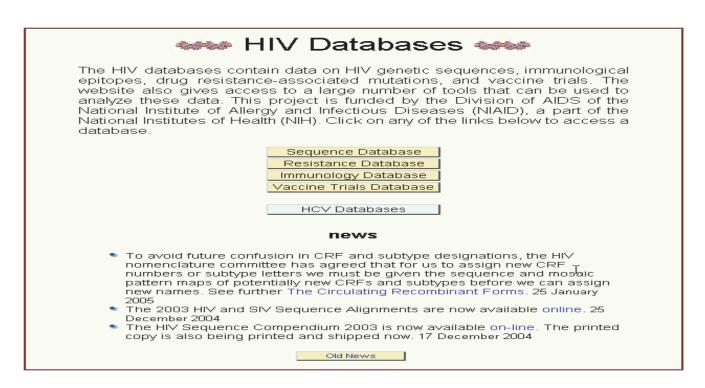
- Understanding the database content, how information was obtained, and what is available
- Quality control tools
- Tools for analyses
- Database searching



The HIV Databases

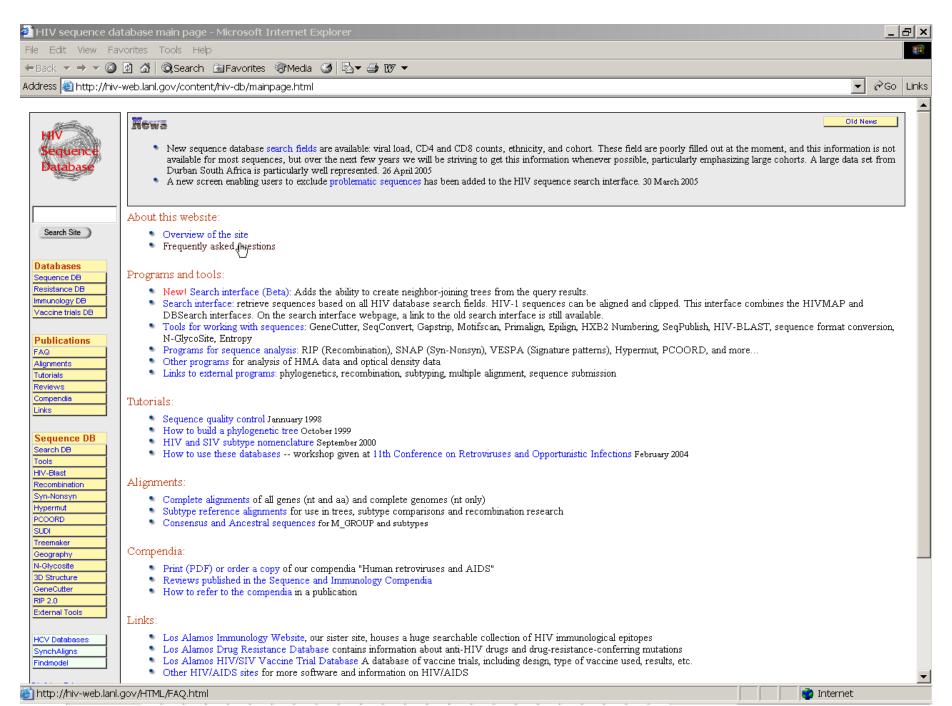
- HIV Sequence database founded 1986, G. Myers
 Relational database, data from GenBank with added fields from the literature
 Alignments align indels and reduce multiple sequences per person
 Annual hard copy and reviews
 Web search interfaces: subtype, phenotype, geographic, sampling year...
 Analysis tools
 HIV Immunology database founded 1995, B. Korber
 Comprehensive HIV epitope database, 300-400 papers a year
 Integrate HIV immunological and sequence data
 - □ Annual hard copy and reviews
 - □ Web search interfaces: epitope, protein, HLA type, immunogen, keywords
 - □ Analysis tools for immunologists
- HIV Drug Resistance database, founded 1997, J. Mellors
 - □ A searchable web listing of drug resistance mutations and literature links, updated annually by Dr. Mellors
- HIV Vaccine database, founded 2003, J. Mokili
 - □ A searchable relational database of published primate vaccine trials





Questions or comments? Contact us at Seq-info@t10.lanl.gov







Search Interface

Help

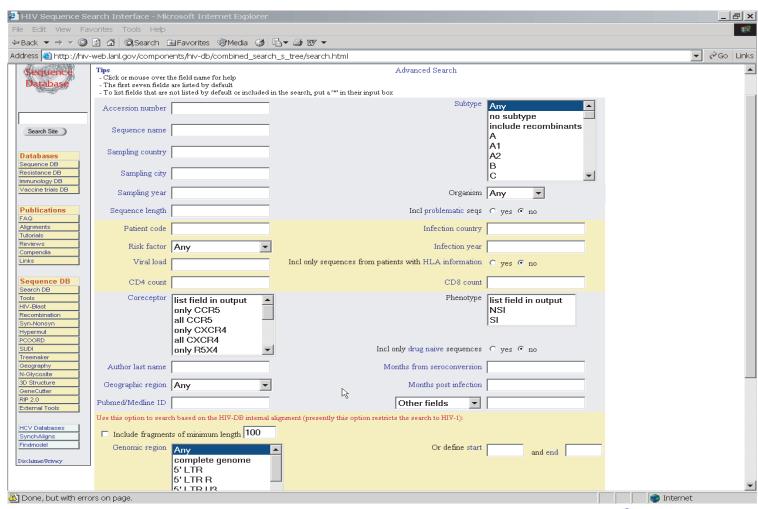
- □ Tips at the top of the page are often overlooked
 - Ranges, operators, wildcards, logical groupings
- □ Field names are clickable, also mouse-overs
 - Example: "Sampling country" gives two-letter ISO country codes

Searches

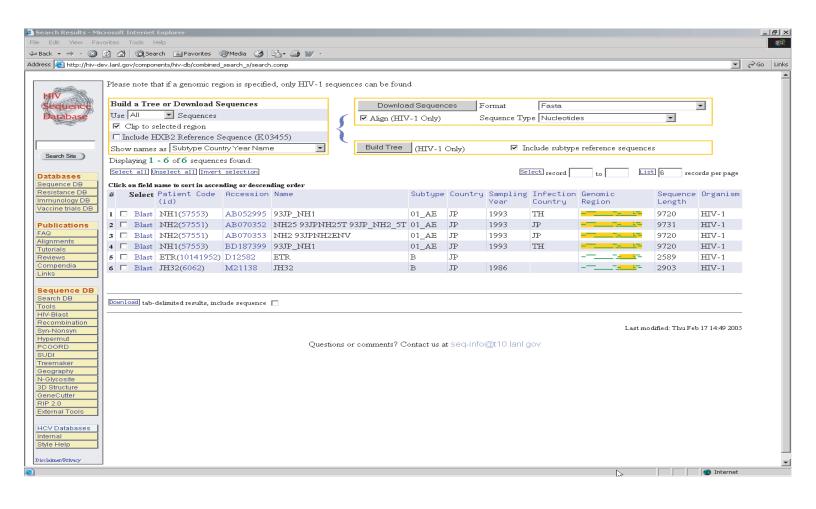
- Searches are case-insensitive
- Records are searchable through sequence, patient, genomic region, or publication information
- □ First seven fields will appear in search results page by default
- A "*" in a textbox will cause that field to be included in the results page
- □ Patient information (Infection year, Infection country) is different than sequence information (Sampling year and Sampling country)

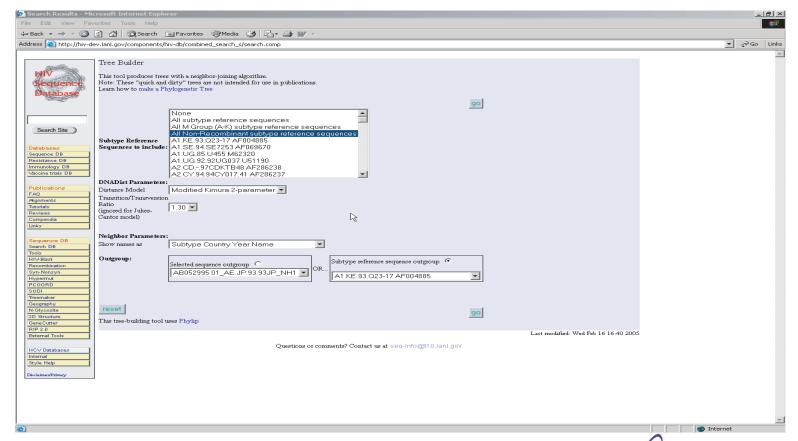
Results

- Can select not aligned, or aligned based on multiple pair wise alignments alignments are good, but still need hand editing for an optimal alignment
- Select all or a subset of sequences for download
- □ Sequences can be re-ordered by clicking on fields at the top of the page



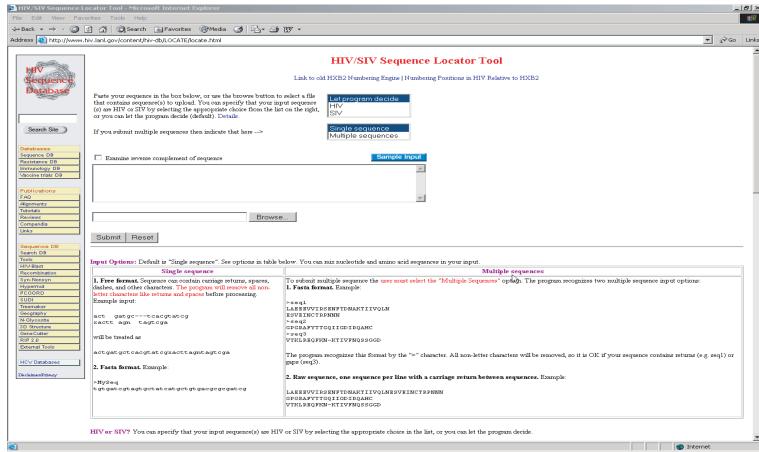






HIV/SIV Sequence Locator Tool

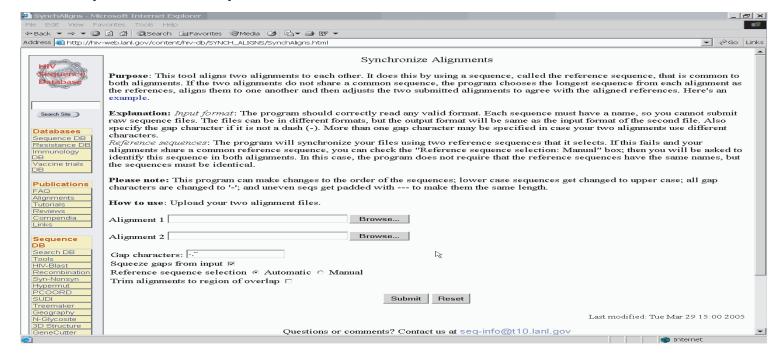
- Rapidly returns position numbers of an HIV or SIV DNA or protein sequence fragment relative to the HXB2r or SMM239 reference strains
- Such numbers are often included in the literature, and are often incorrect
- Marks the location of the sequence on an HIV map
- For DNA sequences, a translation is provided
- Can be used for input into the search interface, to pull a particular region of interest out of the database (like a specific epitope)





Comparing "new" and DB sequences

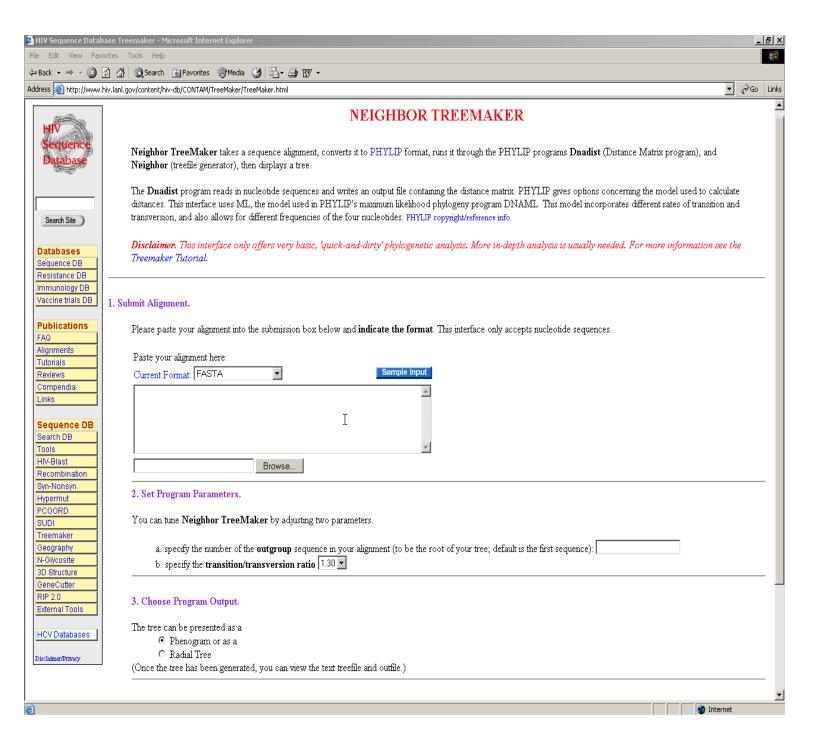
- Synch Aligns allows you to bring your new alignment into register with one of our reference alignments or search alignments
- TreeMaker produces a Neighbor Joining tree for a "quickand-dirty" comparison
- TreeMaker is based on DNADIST & NEIGHBOR in the PHYLIP package
- HIV-BLAST is an option for looking for highly similar sequences or possible contamination



Synchronize Alignments Example

ref1 align1	JKLMN-OPQR-ST JKLMNYOPQRYST JKLMNYOPQR-ST
ref2 align2	HIJK-LMNOP HIJKXLMN-P JK-LMNOP HIJK-LMNOP
Result	after SynchAligns
ref1 align1 ref2 align2	JK-LMN-OPQR-ST JK-LMNYOPQR-ST JK-LMNYOPQRYST HIJK-LMN-OP HIJK-LMN-OP H-JK-LMN-OP

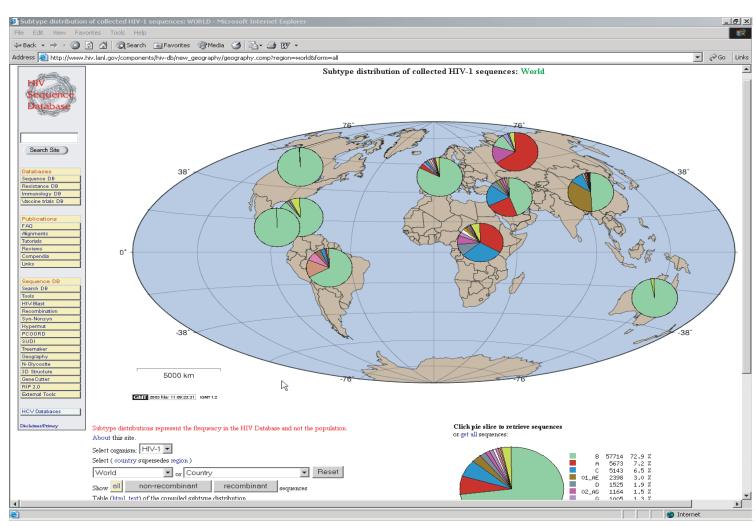






Geography Tool

- Another way to search/download sequences is by geographic region or country
- Results are biased as they show only the sampled individuals, not the true subtype distribution for a region's population
- Results are selectable as in the search interface



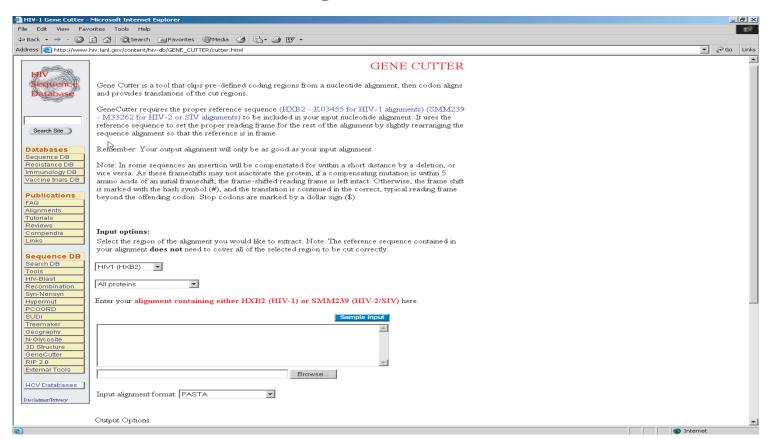


Gene Cutter

- Useful for sequencing labs, particularly for rapid processing of new sets of full length genomes
- Cut out genes and proteins from aligned sets of DNA sequences
- Sequences do not need to be codon aligned results can be codon-aligned on the fly with generally good results
- Currently, sequence alignments must contain HXB2 as a reference for the program to function

New Features

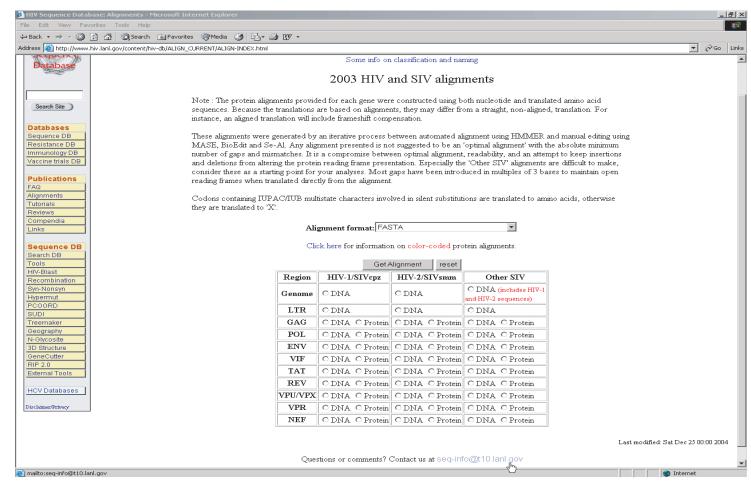
- □ Allows codon alignment and cutting of regions of HIV-2 and SIV (must include SMM239)
- Recognizes IUPAC multistate characters in sequences and translates them appropriately
- For each region, maintains a list of stop codons, codons containing multistate characters, and codons containing indels.





Sequence Alignments

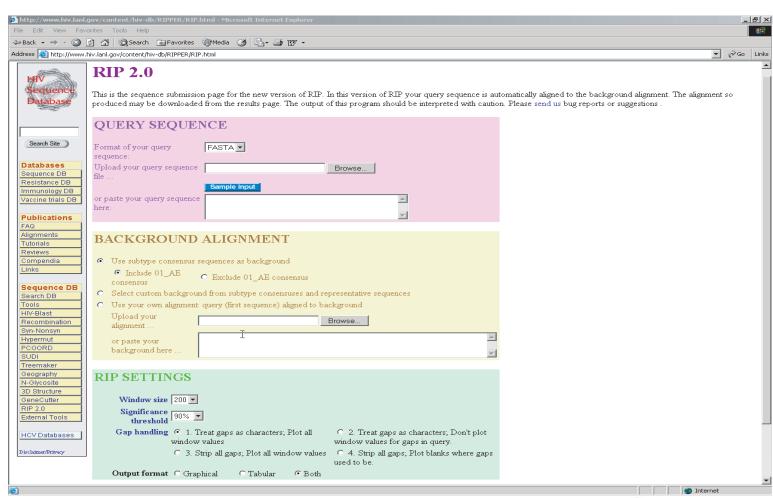
- Originally based on iterations of manual and HMM alignments
- Yearly updates using HMM and manual corrections
- Full length genomes updated throughout the year
- Alignments are in reading frame (codon aligned)
- Alignments non-redundant
- Compendia alignments show fewer sequences than web version
- Reference alignments contain up to four representatives
- Protein alignments may contain frameshift compensations
- Subtype consensus with ties resolved, as well as maximum likelihood ancestors, are available for reagent production





Recombination Analysis

- Many methods and programs exist to investigate potential recombination
 - □ http://bioinf.man.ac.uk/~robertson/recombination/
- Investigating recombination requires many steps
- A new version of RIP is available at HIV db
 - Automatic alignment
 - □ Selection of background sequences
 - □ Different window/gap handling options
 - □ Graphic & table output





Check new sequences to make sure they are "sensible"

- Trees are intrapatient and linked cases well behaved?
- Blast use representative sequences screen against the database to check for possible contaminations.
- Check alignments look for regional odd behavior PCR recombination can carry in contaminating fragments

(coming soon: window blast)

Are sequences hypermutated?



Sequence Quality Control

"No matter what drug we give, our sequences always are 25% wildtype" - Quote from the head of a reference laboratory.

Some HIV researchers are convinced that careful lab work is enough to prevent contamination. We disagree. Contamination happens, even in the best laboratories. Screening for contamination should be done before the analysis of the sequences, and periodically during the course of large sequencing studies, so problems can be detected and corrected early.

To show what contamination looks like in practice, we have collected some examples of (mostly published) datasets where contamination is a problem, and

Following the steps below will help to check your sequences. They are no substitute for common sense and precautions, but they may help spot contamination in your sequences. We have created interactive pages where you can build a tree and do a BLAST search with your sequences. If you work with sequences from very conserved regions (such as protease or RT), check here for more tips on identifying problem sequences.

- 1. Create a phylogenetic tree that includes all the sequences in the study. Common signs of trouble are:
 - Extreme intrapatient divergence

- Extreme interpatient similarity

 Mixed clusters (sequences from patient A clustering with patient B)

 A phylogenetic tree clarifies the relations between the sequences. If you have lab strain contamination or sample mix-ups between two patients, a phylogenetic tree will likely show it. Once you have your sequences aligned, generate a simple neighbor joining tree to check for potential problems
- 2. Compare your sequences to all published sequences (BLAST search)
 - Watch for lab strains with high similarity scores
 - Keep in mind that 100% identity is not required for contamination! (example)

Blast is a program that finds sequences with very high similarity to the query sequence. If your sequence is very similar to a published strain, especially a lab strain that is used for in vitro studies, it is likely that you have contamination. Even if your sequence is not identical to the lab strain, watch out for in vitro recombination, where only part of the sequence matches the lab strain, and the other part is derived from your patient sample. You can compare your sequences to all Genbank entries (Genbank-BLAST), which contains the very latest sequences, or against the HIV database (click the BLAST button) which can lag behind a few weeks, but contains more background information about the sequences.

What is 'reasonable similarity' depends on the gene or region (RT sequences are much more similar than V3 sequences) and on the population (compare a set of clonal sequences from different tissues of one person to a set from different persons in a clustered outbreak, to a set from different African countries). We've prepared some basic guidelines.

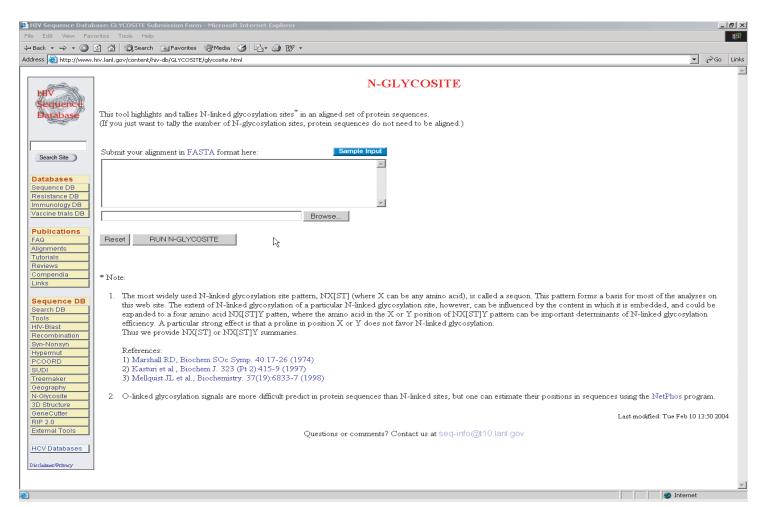
3. Look carefully at the alignments, and pay attention to patient signature patterns

Signature patterns often help to show what is 'typical' and 'atypical' for a patient, and thus help to recognize sequences that don't seem to belong with a patient. The usefulness of signature patterns can be seen in the contamination examples. You can use Vespa to find the patterns, but often a simple alignment is sufficient to spot suspicious sequences. When you have an alignment, you can use SeqPublish to create a formatted version of it that will



N-Glycosite

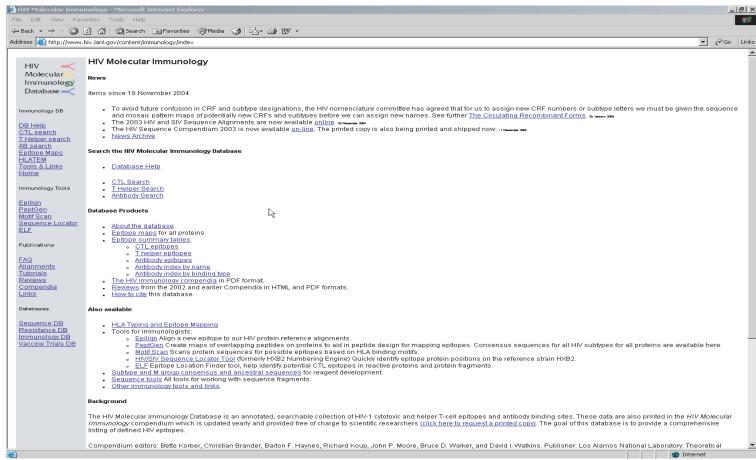
- Tracks of patterns of N-linked glycosylation site (N-X-[ST]) change in sequences
- INPUT: A sequence alignment of interest
- OUTPUT:
 - □ Tallies of numbers of Ngly sites in each sequence
 - Highlighted Ngly sites
 - Graphics illustrating frequency of Ngly patterns in the alignment, and in sub-regions of the alignment
 - □ Frequencies of different patterns of X and Y in N-X-[ST]-Y





Immunology Database Overview

- HIV T-Cell (CTL, T-helper) and Antibody (Ab)
- Types of data recorded
 - Epitope sequence and location: HXB2 numbering, subtype
 - □ Immunogen
 - □ Host HLA or MHC, and Ab isotype
 - □ Notes summarize main findings
- Contents: data from 1985 through 2003
- Data from 2004 is being added and will be available early next year
 - □ 2618 CTL entries
 - □ 726 T-helper entries
 - □ 1223 Ab entries

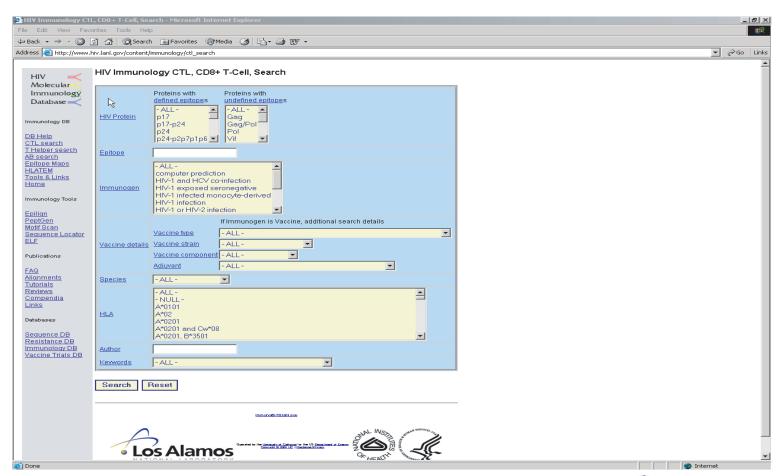




Immunology Database: Search

T Cells

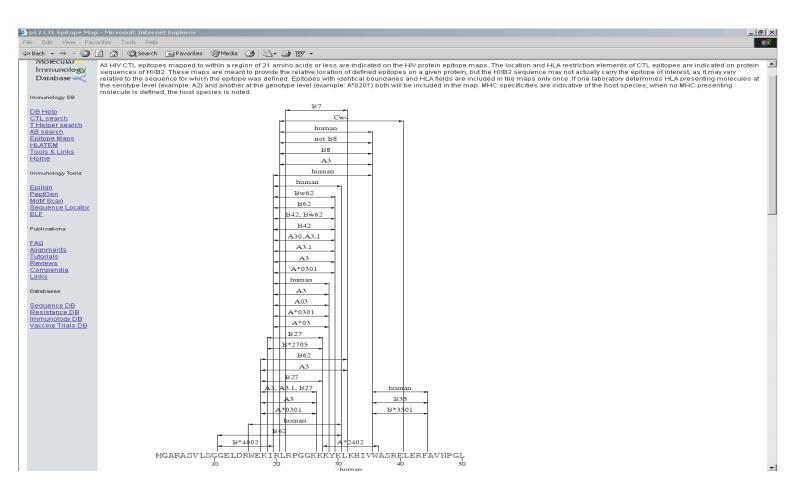
- □ Cytotoxic T Lymphocytes (CTL)
- □ Helper T Lymphocytes (T-helper)
- □ Biological distinction between CTL and T-helper is not always obvious
- Organization is identical for CTL and T-helper
- ☐ One reference per entry
- B Cells (Antibodies)
 - One entry for each monoclonal antibody
 - ☐ Many references per entry (up to 150)





Immunology DB: Additional Information

- All entries for a reference
- Medline links to papers
- Epitope Tables
- Epitope Maps
 - □ Unique species/HLA for T cell epitopes
 - MAb name, species code for Ab
- Epitope Alignments
 - □ Extracted from HIV-sequence database, includes subtype, country and year of sampling





EPILIGN

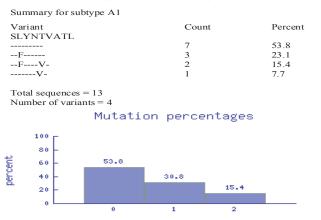
 Generates an alignment of your HIV-1 amino acid sequence against our web alignments

 Can be used to align epitopes, functional domains, or any protein region of interest

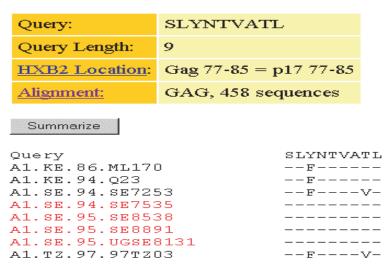
Sequence names include subtype, country and

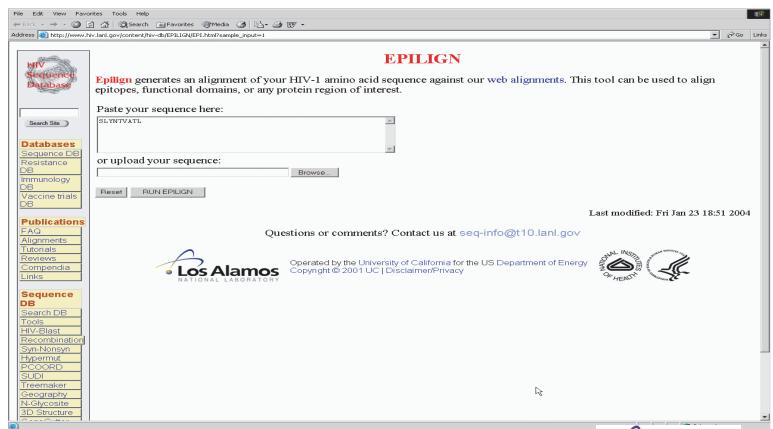
year of sampling

Example of output:



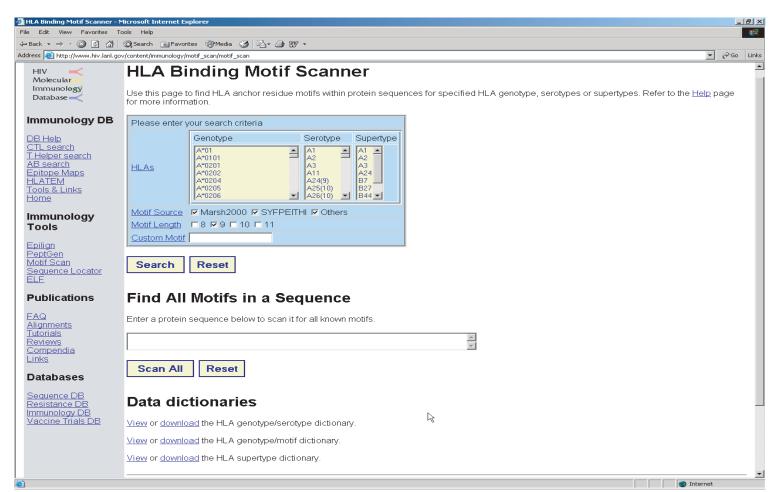
No. of mutations



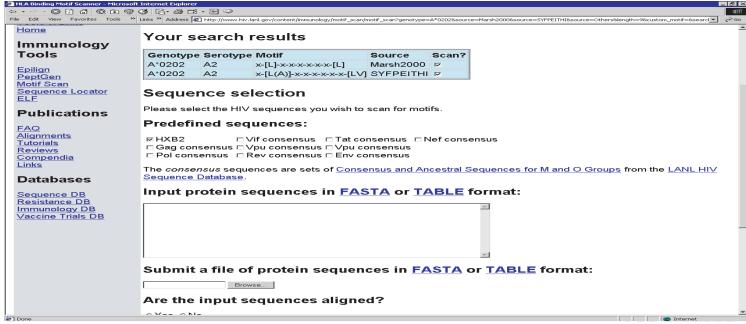


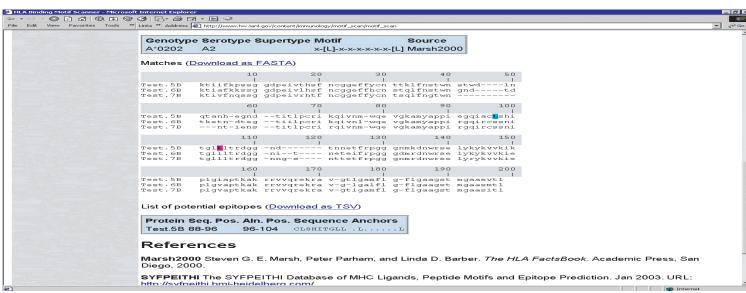
HLA Binding Motif Scanner: MotifScan

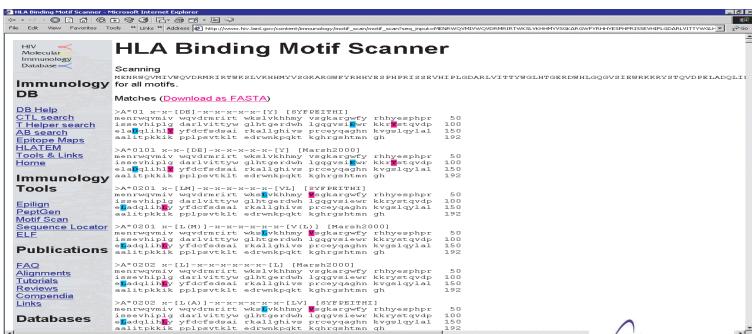
- Finds HLA anchor motifs within protein sequences for specified HLA genotypes, serotypes, or supertypes
- HLA anchor motif dictionaries are available on line
- Main motif and supermotif sources:
 - □ SYPHEITHI Database, Rammensee et al. www.syfpeithi.de
 - □ HLA Facts Book, Marsh et al. 2000
 - □ Sette & Sidney, Immunogenetics 50:201-212, 1999
 - □ Isobella Honeyborne and Philip Goulder, Yusim *et al* 2003, (HLA-C motifs predicted by genetic similarities in HLA molecules)
- INPUT:
 - □ User defined query sequence or aligned sequences, or reference set
 - Selected HLA anchor motifs, or user defined motif
 - ☐ The user defined motif function could be used to search for other patterns of interest in sequences
- OUTPUT:
 - □ Anchor residue positions are highlighted in the query sequence
 - Potential epitopes and positions are listed
 - Output can be downloaded as text, convenient for further analysis
- NEW FEATURE: Finds all known motifs in a sequence





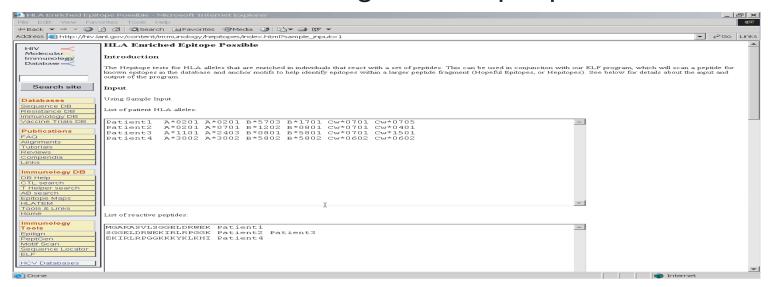


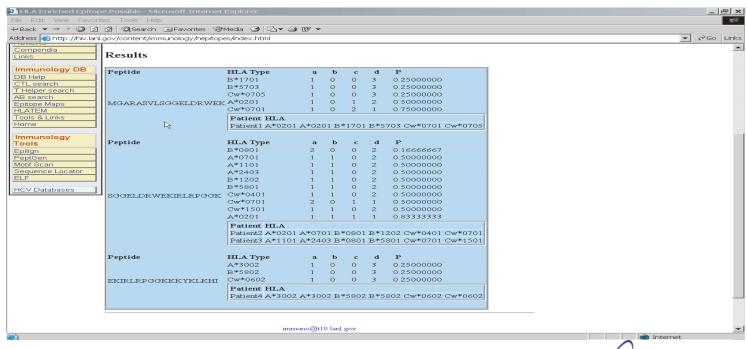




Hepitope: Identifying epitopes in reactive peptides

- Input1: A set of the HLA alleles for a study set of individuals
- Input2: A list of peptides and the individuals that react with each peptide
- Output: Listings of HLA alleles that are found in people that react with the peptide, ordered by those that are enriched among reactive people





Los Alamos

ELF – Epitope Location Finder

- Input1: A set of HLA alleles of interest
- Input2: A reactive peptide
- Output: Listings of HLA alleles that are possible based on HLA motifs, and listings of all known epitope that are located within the peptide.

